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A N
A C C O U N T
OF THE L A T E
Dr. GOLDSMITH'S ILLNESS,
SO FAR AS RELATES TO THE
E X H I B I T I O N
O F
Dr. JAMES'S POWDERS:

TOGETHER WITH
REMARKS on the Use and ABUSE of Powerful MEDICINES
in the Beginning of FEVERS and other ACUTE DISEASES.

By WILLIAM HAWES, M. D.

The FOURTH EDITION,
WITH
CORRECTIONS, and an APPENDIX.

L O N D O N:
Printed for the AUTHOR, and to be had of the following
Booksellers: Mr. BROWNE, the Corner of Essex-Street,
Strand; Messrs. DENNIS, New Bridge-Street; and Mr.
WADE, No. 163, Fleet-Street.

M D C C L X X X.

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OF THE
Dr. GOLDWIN'S ILLNESS

Dr. J. H. WYLLIE
EXHIBITION



Dr. JAMES POWELL

Remains on the subject of the history of the
in the beginning of the 19th century

B. WILLIAM HAWES M.D.

THE FOURTH EDITION
WITH
CORRECTIONS and an APPENDIX

L. O. ANDERSON, Esq.
Printed by the Author, and to be had of the
Booksellers, Mr. R. and J. C. Street, No. 10, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.
Printed by Messrs. D. and J. B. Street, No. 10, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

After the Doctor's death, you were
to be informed with the same

of his affairs; till the person should appear
 who was authorized to administer to his

effects; and I shall that I have
 faithfully executed your intention. But as

Sir JOSHUA REYNOLDS,

humanity as the late Dr. Goldsmith, they
 become naturally anxious to know the cir-

cumstances of his illness and death. This

EDMUND BURKE, Esq.

that I had attended him, to apply to me
 for information on the subject. I have, ac-

GENTLEMEN,

THE death of a Man so much distin-
 guished in the Republic of Letters as
 my late much-valued friend Dr. GOLD-
 SMITH, must naturally attract the notice of
 the World; and as there were some cir-
 cumstances attending that unhappy event,
 which seem proper to be made generally
 known, I have presumed to lay them before
 the Public.

DEDICATION.

After the Doctor's decease, you were pleased to honour me with the management of his affairs, till the person should appear, who was authorized to administer to his effects; and I flatter myself that I have faithfully executed your intention. But as the Public are interested in the loss of a man so conspicuous for his talents, and his humanity as the late Dr. GOLDSMITH, they become naturally anxious to know the circumstances of his illness and death. This has induced many Gentlemen, who knew that I had attended him, to apply to me for information on the subject. I have, accordingly, readily related to them the particulars which came within my knowledge; but having been also applied to publicly, as well as by private letters, I have thought it best to publish this little Pamphlet; and the rather, as I have reason to believe some persons have formed very unjust and uncandid notions respecting my conduct in this affair; and it is therefore presumed, that these considerations will sufficiently apologize for this Publication.

All

DEDICATION.

All that is reasonable to expect from me, is a fair detail of the circumstances with which this Case was attended. I have attempted little more than this; and it is hoped, that what is here offered to the Public, will prove as satisfactory to my readers in general, as it has done to many of Dr. GOLDSMITH's acquaintance; to whom I appeal, whether I have not uniformly advanced the same particulars in private, which I have now thought it expedient to publish to the world.

The event which gave rise to this Pamphlet, hath given a very sincere concern to me, as well as to many others. I am, however, willing to take this opportunity of expressing the great respect which I have for you, Gentlemen, to whom, with your permission, I have taken the liberty of addressing this Publication. I am happy in having my conduct approved of by two of Dr. GOLDSMITH's most intimate and respectable friends; both of whom have deservedly attained to a very high degree
of

DEDICATION.

of reputation: the one, as the first Painter of the present age; while the other is universally celebrated as an upright Senator, and most accomplished Orator.

I am, Gentlemen,

With the greatest regard,

Your most obedient

Humble servant,

April 25, 1774.

W. HAWES.

A N

ACCOUNT, &c.

AS the observations which I have made in the Dedication prefixed to this piece, will sufficiently account for its design, I shall begin my narrative without any further apology.

On Friday the twenty-fifth of March, 1774, the late Dr. GOLDSMITH was taken ill, and at eleven o'clock the same night sent for me to his Chambers. He complained of a violent pain extending all over the fore-part of his head; his tongue was moist; he had no cold shiverings or pain in any other part, and his pulse beat about ninety strokes in a minute. He then acquainted me he had taken two ounces of Ipecacuanha wine as a vomit, and that it was his intention to take *Dr. James's Fever Powders*, which he desired me to send him. I replied, that in my opinion this was a medicine very improper at that time, and begged he would not think of it: but I am sorry to say, that every argument used, seemed only to render him more determined in his own opinion; which gave me much concern, as I could not avoid thinking, that the man whom I had all the reason in the world to esteem, was about to take a step which might prove extremely injurious to him. I, therefore, endeavoured to reason medically with him, and observed, that his complaint appeared to be more

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a nervous affection than a febrile disease. He said, " he thought so too." I replied, " Then, Sir, " as you have already taken a vomit, which has " operated very well, I would advise you to take " a gentle opiate, which may be a means of quieting the stomach; as after the operation of an " emetic it generally produces for a few hours refreshing sleep; after which, in all probability, " the complaint in the head will gradually go off, " as repeated experience has confirmed." To this he answered, " I like your mode of reasoning " well;" and for a short time he appeared to be convinced, but soon after insisted upon taking the *Powder*. I now found myself in a more disagreeable situation, than can easily be conceived by any person whatever, except a Brother-Practitioner: for with great concern I speak it, the more we endeavour to convince, the more our good intentions are too frequently treated with disregard; and I solemnly declare, that I felt at that time more anguish of mind than I had done in fifteen years preceding practice. And this for three reasons: First, the consequence of this patient's health and life to his friends and society: Secondly, the desire which every Practitioner has, or ought to have, of doing good when consulted; at least not suffering his patient to do himself an injury: Thirdly, from the real friendship I entertained for the Doctor, on the principles of gratitude for his countenance towards an Undertaking, which I have for a considerable time endeavoured to establish in this kingdom, and which, by the assistance of a worthy and able physician, and the favour of the Public, is now likely to take place. For these reasons, I could not take my leave without again endeavouring to convince him: and though some of the Faculty may perhaps smile at me for theorizing

(to

(to which they have my full consent), I now pursued that plan ; and as I had before surmounted his objections, in preceding complaints, by entering a little minutely into the progress of diseases, and the action of medicines on the human body, I hoped it would prove successful in the present instance. I told the Doctor, that his stomach was yet hardly settled from the operation of the emetic, and that his frame in general seemed a good deal agitated ; and therefore the *Fever-Powder* would be more likely to act as a simple stimulant on the primæ viæ than as a febrifuge, and thus be a means of reproducing the vomiting in a very violent degree, or induce a purging ; and that if it acted upon either stomach or intestines, it might in the end be productive of the most serious consequences.

However, though I reasoned with him on the subject, for near half an hour, by his bed-side, and earnestly intreated him not to take *Dr. James's Powders*, yet I could not prevail upon him to say that he would not.—At last I addressed him, to the best of my remembrance, in the following manner, “ Please, Sir, to observe, that if you do take “ the *Fever-Powder*, it is entirely without my ap- “ probation ; and at the same time remember, “ how very anxious I have been to persuade you “ to desist from it : and now I will take my leave, “ if you will be kind enough to grant me one “ request.” He very warmly asked me, what that was ? I told him, that as he had always consulted Dr. Fordyce in preceding illnesses, and had expressed the greatest opinion of his abilities as a physician, I hoped he would permit me to send for him. It was full a quarter of an hour before I could obtain his consent to this, as the taking *Dr. James's Powders* appeared to be the only ob-

ject which employed his attention ; and even then he endeavoured to throw an obstacle in my way, by saying, that Dr. Fordyce was gone to spend the evening in Gerrard-street, “ where, adds he, I “ should also have been, if I had not been indisposed.” I told him, that the distance was a matter of no consequence, and that if he would permit it, my man should immediately be sent for him. He replied, “ Well, you may send for him, “ if you will.” I frankly declare, that this last sentence was the most agreeable to me, of any that he had uttered during my stay with him. I then came home, and immediately wrote a note to Dr. Fordyce, and dispatched my servant, with orders first to call in Essex-street, and enquire whether he was returned ; and if not at home, to proceed to Gerrard-street. Fortunately, the messenger found him at home, who sent me word that he would wait on Dr. GOLDSMITH directly.

As I did not attend at the same time with Dr. Fordyce, I am ignorant of the conversation that passed during his visit ; but it was evident that he did not approve of the *Fever Powder*, as he prescribed other medicines. And, indeed, early the next morning the Doctor called at my house, and informed me, that he had represented to Dr. GOLDSMITH the preceding night, the impropriety there would be in his taking *Dr. James's Powders* ; but that instead of paying any attention to his remonstrances on this subject, he had unhappily persisted in his own resolution, and taken two or three doses of the *Powder*, though it had operated both as a purgative and an emetic.

When I called to see him on Saturday morning (the twenty-sixth of March) Dr. GOLDSMITH's servant told me, he believed his master was dozing, as he lay very quiet. I then said, I would
call

call in the evening ; which I accordingly did, and his man, with great appearance of concern, when I asked him how his master was, replied he was very bad, for he had been vomiting all day, and had had a great many loose stools ; notwithstanding weich, the servant observed, the Doctor would make him give him *James's Fever Powders* ; so that he still continued the use of the medicine, and of consequence it encreased in its pernicious operation, by which means the evacuations were continued for at least eighteen hours. I afterwards went into Dr. GOLDSMITH's chamber, and found him extremely reduced, and his pulse was now become very quick and small. When I enquired of him how he did, he sighed deeply, and in a very low voice said, "he wished he had taken my "friendly advice last night", (meaning Friday night, the twenty-fifth of March) : and this was all he said during this visit ; for whatever other questions I thought proper to ask him, he appeared so much exhausted as not to be able to make any reply to them ; and I clearly perceived he was so very weak and low, from the large and copious evacuation, that he seemed to have neither strength nor spirits to speak.

As Dr. Fordyce had visited him a little before my attendance on him at this time, I thought it unnecessary to trouble him to make a reply to many enquiries : accordingly I took my leave ; at the same time being firmly convinced in my own mind, that every bad consequence was to be expected from the violent operation of this medicine.

I was very soon too well confirmed in my opinion by Dr. Fordyce's calling upon me at my house the same evening, and acquainting me with much regret, that Dr. GOLDSMITH by taking Dr.
James's

James's Powders had done himself so much injury, that he thought it right to propose calling in another Physician, as he would not follow his advice; in hopes that by so doing, the patient would be convinced of the danger of his situation, and consequently be more inclined to conform to the mode of treatment prescribed. Dr. Fordyce said, he knew that Dr. GOLDSMITH had a great opinion of Dr. Turton; and desired I would go very early in the morning, and if I found him no better, to persuade him to call in that Gentleman. Accordingly at eight o'clock, the next morning, (being Sunday) I went, and found him much worse. He had passed a very bad night, having vomited several times, and had many loose stools; he lay absolutely sunk with weakness; and I was so very clear respecting the exceeding bad situation he was in, that instead of fatiguing him with any questions, I immediately exerted my utmost endeavours to persuade him to send for Dr. Turton; to which he (being now, though too late, convinced of his unfortunate mode of proceeding) very readily consented, and desired me to order his servant to go directly. I accordingly did, and the Doctors Fordyce and Turton met at the time appointed, to assist at a consultation, which was continued twice a day till his death.

As the symptoms which arose afterwards in the disease, were noticed with the utmost accuracy by the two able Physicians who attended him, they do not come within my province; I have only endeavoured to give the Public a clear and concise account of the mischievous effects the *Fever-Powders* produced in the before recited case; and am deeply concerned when I consider that they have, by an injudicious application, been productive

tive of the loss of a life so valuable, and so important to Society.

I hope it will not here be deemed impertinent in an Apothecary to declare, that in the course of his business, he has had the opportunity of seeing several Cases wherein this noted *Fever-Powder* has proved highly injurious; which must generally be the consequence when an Antimonial Medicine, very violent frequently in its operation, has become so universally fashionable, as to be administered in almost all feverish complaints, and in all stages of fevers, and too often suffered to be given at the discretion of Old Women, or, at least, by those who cannot have the smallest pretensions to medical knowledge*.

At the same time it would be a proof of the greatest want of candour not to acknowledge, that much good has arisen from the proper and skilful exhibition of *Dr. James's Powders*, in many cases of fevers. From these considerations I am firmly of opinion, that these *Powders*, or indeed any other very powerful and active medicines, should never be taken in any acute disease, but by the advice and direction of a Physician, or in his absence an Apothecary.

As a confirmation of what I have advanced, I refer to the practice of Dr. James himself, who always administers his *Fever-Powders* with great caution and circumspection, and desists from the exhibition of them, when he finds them not operate in the manner he wished or expected. Is it then proper to trust a remedy frequently so very

* Since the above was written, I have read some very ingenious remarks relative to *Dr. James's Fever-Powder*, in a Pamphlet entitled, "Observations on Antimony," read before the Medical Society of London, by John Millar, M. D. which have confirmed me in my opinion on this subject.

powerful in its operation, in the hands of the unskilful, who are incapable of forming a proper judgment either of its good or bad effects?

I will here beg leave to lay before the Public, a circumstance which has happened more than once within my practice, and which, I doubt not, has likewise occurred to many of my brethren: A Gentleman whom I had been used to attend for some years, sent for me after he had been ill two days, and informed me, that he had taken *Dr. James's Fever-Powders* without finding himself any thing the better; some of the doses having caused him to vomit and purge violently, whilst others had a different effect. His servant, being an attentive man, brought me the remaining papers to look at, which I put in my pocket, and weighed as soon as I came home: one weighed three, another four, and the third upwards of six grains. Now, as much depends on the exhibition of a proper quantity of this remedy, and even with that advantage its action is extremely uncertain, every reasonable man must be convinced, that administering a medicine so powerful as these *Fever-Powders* are in so irregular a manner, must often be productive of the most serious consequences.

I wish to remove the film of prejudice from the eyes of the Public, and to make them see clearly the great impropriety there is in indiscriminately taking this or any other powerful medicinal preparation, without the previous advice of a person qualified to direct its exhibition: and I do affirm, that if this caution were more attended to than it generally is, much uneasiness would be prevented in slight complaints, and the danger frequently avoided in those of a more serious nature.

I hope the Public will be convinced, that in this relation of the unfortunate case of the late
much-

much-respected Dr. GOLDSMITH, I have no other design than to give them a just representation of the affair, and to convince them, that my conduct therein has been irreproachable: and as a proof of my sincere desire to render myself beneficial to mankind, and the present unfortunate case seeming to afford me a proper opportunity, I will take the liberty of laying down a few plain rules, which I hope will have a due attention paid to them by my readers.

First, To those who are prepossessed in favour of *Dr. James's Fever-Powder*, and take or prescribe it in too indiscriminate a manner, I would earnestly recommend to keep Apothecaries scales and weights by them, and whilst they are in health, weigh it out in proper proportions, according to the effects they wish it should produce, and have each parcel of the same weight wrapped up; and the quantity contained therein wrote on the outside*: or if proper scales and weights cannot be readily obtained, to send the *Powders* to a neighbouring Apothecary, and mention in writing (not by a verbal message by servants, in a circumstance of so much importance) the quantities to be weighed out. Many Gentlemen of the Temple, &c. whom I have not had the pleasure of knowing, have been so thoroughly convinced of the necessity of this caution, that they have applied to me to have Dr. JAMES'S FEVER-POWDERS properly divided; which I always performed with the utmost willingness, and do not in the least doubt, but that my Brother-Apothecaries, in a matter of

* The above rule may to some persons appear trifling; but they will perhaps change their opinion when they are informed, that it is an undoubted fact, that many keep *Dr. James's Fever-Powders* constantly by them when in health, in order to make use of when they are occasionally taken ill.

so much importance as the use of this very powerful medicine, will be equally ready, when application is made to them, to comply with a request of this kind.

Secondly, In a case of so much importance as the recovery of health, no person should depend too much upon their own judgment; or, what is still worse, implicitly rely on the judgment of such of his acquaintance who may accidentally drop in to visit him: and who, from being engaged in pursuits of a different nature, cannot be supposed to be possessed of medical knowledge. I have frequently, after reasoning with my patient, perhaps my friend, upon a subject so important as the use or abuse of *Dr. James's Fever-Powders*, been silenced by the arrival of an acquaintance, who finding his friend's indisposition to be a feverish complaint, has immediately advised the taking of this active and powerful medicine, without asking any previous question whatever, which might lead to a knowledge of the propriety or impropriety of such advice. And here I cannot avoid making one additional remark, which is, That when a medicine, potent in its operation, is once taken, the die is cast. The natural consequences of the preparation, whether beneficial or pernicious, will inevitably follow; and that friend or acquaintance whose officious tenderness has led him to recommend (for want of an adequate degree of knowledge) an improper medicine, cannot, after it has once been administered, prevent or counteract its effects, however dangerous or fatal. He cannot then check those incessant vomitings, purgings, and other increased secretions, which the *Fever-Powder* too frequently produces; nor can he restore the muscular and vascular strength, when reduced to the lowest ebb by the violent operation

operation of this, or any other powerful medicine. I am the rather induced to make this observation, *from the present reigning propensity to quackery*, which has been excited by the numerous advertisements of *NOSTRUMS* (the productions of artful, interested, and often ignorant men) which perpetually appear in the News-papers, as well as by hand-bills offered us in the public streets, to the disgrace of our police; and by which means the unwary, as well as the too credulous wealthy people in this country, are most essentially, and sometimes fatally injured.

Thirdly, I could wish it were possible (for the writer, though a person of no great consequence in life, has the most friendly dispositions to all mankind) to persuade the generality of people, and more particularly those of rank or opulence, who are apt to be the most impatient when attacked with any disorder, TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF A DISEASE; and though they should be seized with a violent head-ach, pain in their limbs, heat, and other febrile symptoms; or, indeed, the symptoms of any acute disease, whether topical or general Inflammations, Rheumatic Fever, &c. not too precipitately to apply (expecting immediate ease and relief) to *Dr. James's Powders*, or any other very powerful active medicine; for altho' these symptoms may be extremely disagreeable to bear, yet a very short time has often produced a total freedom from this uneasy situation; and I dare say that every Practitioner, as well as myself, has seen innumerable instances, particularly in febrile attacks, wherein by going to bed, and drinking two or three half pints of warm Mountain-whey, or other warm diluting liquors, a kindly sweat has broken out in an hour or two,

which excretion has carried off all the symptoms that produced such strong apprehensions in the person taken ill ; and I will venture to affirm, that greater numbers have done well at the beginning of Fevers, and other acute diseases, by acting in the above manner, than by taking *Dr. James's Powders* ; though the Public Ledger does indeed inform us, almost every day, that this celebrated Nostrum " will generally cure a Fever in a few " hours, though attended with every bad symptom." But I will take upon me to assert, that many persons, by attending to the above precautions, have immediately put a stop to the disease, and thereby prevented those dangerous consequences which were to be apprehended from it ; whereas, if they had taken the FEVER-POWDERS, or indeed any other very powerful medicine, they would have so much interrupted *Nature* in the course of her operations, as to prevent her giving her kind assistance in the further progress of the disorder : and I am certain, that the injudicious application of potent remedies, at the beginning of diseases, has not only been productive of long and tedious illnesses, but has too frequently occasioned the loss of a truly valuable life to the community *. For it is an indisputable axiom, that when-

* Dr. Millar, in the Pamphlet before referred to, has the following observations relative to the use of *Dr. James's Fever-Powder*. " In the course," says he, " of more than " twenty years practice, though I have never prescribed this " medicine, yet I have not, after fairly declaring my opinion, opposed its being given when desired by the sick or " their relations ; and as the cure, where I have been concerned, has been wholly committed to it, without the addition of any medicine, or even regimen, excepting what " is described in the printed directions, or what the inventor " himself has ordered, some fair opportunities have occurred of observing its effects ; to which, and to every other " infor-

whenever powerful means are administered, if the consequences are not beneficial, they must be exceedingly pernicious, and perhaps fatal and irreparable.

Principiis obsta is an excellent maxim, and what I would recommend to every one; take care in the beginning of a disorder, and you will nine times out of ten save yourself the trouble of applying to any powerful *Nostrum* whatever; for it frequently happens that when the disease has obtained full possession, *serò medicina paratur*.

The desire I have to warn mankind against the fatal effects produced by the indiscriminate exhibition of various potent medicines, has possibly betrayed me into an improper warmth of expression (perhaps not altogether so prudent for one in my present situation of life) which I flatter myself will be excused by the humane and sensible part of the Public, when it is considered, that the preservation of the lives of my fellow-creatures was the principal incitement to it.

I could here expatiate amply on the use of bleeding, blisters, antimonials, and other potent

“ information that could be obtained, with a mind open to
“ conviction, I have carefully attended. But in this, as in
“ all our former researches, the evidence has been unfavour-
“ able to the fame of the *Powder*.

“ In some instances it has occasioned fainting, convulsions,
“ and other violent symptoms, which terrified those who
“ gave it. In all which I have seen it has proved unsuccess-
“ ful; though, in some cases, the cure has afterwards been
“ accomplished by safer methods; and in those where it
“ was too late to use any other remedies, the sick have died,
“ although it was probable they might have recovered by a
“ different management, which has succeeded in similar in-
“ stances; but from an abused and misplaced confidence,
“ has been too often set aside to make way for this favourite
“ medicine.” *Observations on Antimony, page 92, 93.*

remedies

remedies in acute diseases ; but the present unhappy occasion requiring a speedy publication of this little production, my other avocations will not permit me at present to think of it. But if I should be blessed with health and opportunity, I may possibly, at some future period, trouble the Public with my sentiments on these important means of relief and recovery ; and endeavour to shew, upon rational and consistent principles, that these very powerful medical applications require the clearest ideas of the causes and progress of diseases, to render them truly useful in the healing art.

I have now finished the relation of this unhappy case, and those observations to which it has given rise ; and I apprehend, that the hints which I have thrown out on the too early application of powerful remedies, in the beginning of acute diseases, cannot be wholly improper. I have, indeed, been the more stimulated to this publication by the opinion of some of my friends ; who in the relation of the case, requested me to make it public for the general good, and with a view to prevent such unfortunate incidents in future. I was at first rather averse to this ; but as Dr. GOLDSMITH'S death is now become a subject of general conversation, and various reports have been propagated respecting my conduct, during my attendance upon him, I hope the Public will do me the justice to believe, that no vain desire of appearing in the character of an Author, has occasioned the publication of these pages ; but that a solicitude to give a just representation of the beginning of the Doctor's illness, and to prevent, as much as in my power, the indiscriminate and injudicious application of any very powerful medicine, were the only motives

motives that induced me to submit this to the inspection of the Public.

As these were really the motives to which this publication owes its origin, I hope my readers will be sufficiently equitable and candid to give them their full force; and if they do this, and endeavour to profit by the relation of this unfortunate case, and the few plain rules which I have laid down to prevent an improper treatment of persons in those of a similar nature, I shall think myself abundantly rewarded; and that any trouble with which this appeal to the Public may have been attended, has been much more than sufficiently compensated.

Before I conclude, it may not be improper to observe, (as a kind of apology for some particulars which are before related to have passed between me and Dr. GOLDSMITH) that he was bred a Physician, and therefore it was natural to converse with him on the subject of his disorder in a medical manner; but his attention had been so wholly absorbed by polite literature, that it prevented him from making any great progress in medical studies. As an elegant Writer, he will always be held in the highest esteem by all persons of true taste. His *Traveller* and *Deserted Village* are deservedly numbered amongst the best poetical productions of the present age; and some of his essays, and other pieces, are very advantageously distinguished by genuine wit and native humour. It should also be remembered, that he was not only an excellent writer, but a most amiable man. His humanity and generosity greatly exceeded the narrow limits of his fortune; and those who were no judges of the literary merit of the Author, could not but love the Man for that benevolence by which he was so strongly characterised.

N. B.

N. B. As my late respected and ingenious friend, Dr. GOLDSMITH, was pleased to honour Dr. Cogan and myself with his patronage and assistance IN THE UNDERTAKING FOR THE RECOVERY OF PERSONS APPARENTLY DEAD BY DROWNING, AND OTHER SUDDEN ACCIDENTS, now on the point of being established in this kingdom; I think I cannot shew a greater proof of my esteem for the deceased, than by applying the profits of this Publication (if any should arise) to an institution, the design of which was favoured with his approbation.

APPEND

A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E
P U B L I C.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR, and to be had of the following
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M D C C L X X X.

A D D R E S S



P U B L I C

L O N D O N
Printed for the Author, and in the Hall of the following
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St. Paul's Church-yard; Messrs. Danks, New Bridge Street; and Mr.
Ward, No. 10, Fleet Street.
N O D D L E

A P P E N D I X.

WHOEVER publishes any observations to the world, however calculated for general utility, which may have a tendency to give offence to *interested* people, and be supposed unfavourable to their views, will be sure to meet with illiberal attacks from them, or from their agents. This has been my case, in consequence of my having printed this Pamphlet. I have been treated in the Newspapers with much illiberality, on account of the observations which I have made concerning the injurious and pernicious use of Dr. JAMES'S POWDERS. It was supposed that my publication might be prejudicial to the *sale* of this famous medicine, and therefore I incurred the indignation of those who derive large pecuniary profits from it. But as I am conscious of the uprightness of my own intentions, I am little concerned at the abuse of mercenary people. However, as I have a great deference for the opinion of the candid Public, I have thought it not improper to subjoin to this Edition a few additional remarks on the subject, and on some observations which have appeared in the Newspapers relative to my conduct. I was, indeed, somewhat prepared for the scurrility which has been thrown out against me, by a very expressive declaration which Mr. Francis Newbery, jun. made to me himself, and the meaning

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of

of which could not be mistaken; namely, that
 “ say what I would, THE FEVER-POWDER WAS
 “ HIS PROPERTY AND HE WOULD DEFEND IT.”

Mr. NEWBERY also thought proper, with a candour worthy of himself, to insinuate, though without the least foundation, that the *Fever-Powder* which was taken by Dr. GOLDSMITH, and which was sent to him from my shop, was not the genuine sort. To this I answer, That as this Medicine is in such general vogue that almost every Apothecary is obliged to keep it, it has also occasionally been sold at my shop; but I solemnly declare that I have never sold any but what was bought by me, or my servant, at Mr. Newbery's, and that this was the case with that which was taken by Dr. GOLDSMITH. And therefore I think there can be no impropriety in inserting here the following Declarations, although they have already appeared in the Public Advertiser; and those by whom these Declarations were made, are ready to attest the truth of the particulars upon oath, if required.

* * * * *

I declare that Dr. GOLDSMITH refused having any medicines administered to him whatever, excepting Dr. *James's Powder*; upon which I returned to my master's house, and carried one paper, which I took from the packet, and divided it into four parts, that it might be administered in proper doses. And I further declare, that it was the Genuine *Fever-Powder* bought at the shop of Francis Newbery, jun. in St. Paul's Church-yard.

May 1, 1774.

EDMUND DEARNS,
Journeyman to Mr. HAWES,

Edmund

* * * * *

EDMUND DEARNS called upon me about twelve o'clock on Friday night, the 25th of March, to hold the candle. I saw him take out something wrapped up on MARBLE PAPER, AND A LARGE BROAD SEAL ON IT. I asked him what that was? He broke the seal, and at the same time said, It WAS JAMES'S POWDER. This I do declare to be true, and am ready to certify upon oath, if required.

MARY PRATT,
Servant to Mr. HAWES.

* * * * *

In justice to my Friend and Truth, I think it proper TO CONTRADICT MRS. SMITH IN ONE OF HER ASSERTIONS IN NEWBERRY'S PARAGRAPH. On the 9th of April I called on Mr. Hawes, to go with me to spend the evening in the Strand. He told me he must wait a few minutes, as he had ordered Dr. GOLDSMITH'S Nurse to call to be paid. She went into his parlour behind the shop, and, I believe, was there about five minutes. In going out through the shop, Mr. Hawes says to the Nurse, "Nurse, for God's sake, whenever you are sent for again to people that are ill, always desire them not to take *James's Powder*, without the consent or advice of some physical man." She made answer and said, "SIR, I will;" and said not another word on the subject. If required, I will testify the above on oath.

*Fleet-street, No. 73,
May 1, 1774.*

W. TOWNSEND.

It deserves to be remembered, that Mr. NEWBERRY in the Declarations which he has, by some means or other, *procured* * from the Nurse, Mary Ginger, &c. appears himself to admit, that Dr. GOLDSMITH received great injury from the Powder, but pretends it was not Dr. James's. I have given the best evidence that the nature of the case will admit, and am ready to authenticate it in the *strongest manner*, that the Powder taken by Dr. GOLDSMITH was really that sold at Newbery's for *James's genuine Fever-Powder*. If then Dr. GOLDSMITH was greatly injured, as even Mr. Newbery himself supposes, by the *Fever Powder* taken by him, it was no other than Dr. James's, bought at *Francis Newbery's, jun.* in St. Paul's church-yard.

With respect to an objection that has been made, that if I disapproved of the use of the *Fever-Powder* in Dr. GOLDSMITH's case, I should not have suffered it to be sent to him from my shop; in order to judge rightly of this matter, the usual practice of Apothecaries should be considered. Though we may disapprove of the exhibition of such a medicine as this, yet it has come into such general use, that it is never supposed that we have a right to refuse it in Fever cases, if the patient or his friends insist on it; and more especial-

* I make use of this expression, because I have good reason to suppose, that some improper *arts* have been used to prevail on the nurse, Mary Ginger, &c. to sign the Declarations by Mr. Newbery; for as to the Nurse in particular, she made use of a very different language to me, from that inserted in the printed Declaration, to which her name is affixed. And of this the testimony of Mr. Townsend is a sufficient evidence.

N. B. It may be proper also here to inform the Public, that Mr. MAXWELL has assured me his name was inserted in the Public Advertiser (in order to support Mr. Newbery's Declarations) without his consent or approbation, or even knowledge.

ly to a Gentleman, like Dr. GOLDSMITH, who had been himself in some degree engaged in the profession of Physic. I thought I had done my duty, by earnestly remonstrating against the use of a medicine which I supposed to be improper in his case. It should also be remembered, that though *I disapproved of Dr. GOLDSMITH's taking Dr. James's Powder*, I could not possibly determine with certainty that it would be productive of such fatal effects. But when these had unfortunately taken place, I thought it an ACT OF DUTY to the Public to make the affair so generally known, as to put people on their guard against an injudicious and indiscriminate use of this, or any other very powerful and active medicine; and for this, I apprehend, I could not be censured by any candid or equitable man; and the rather, as I had no more interest in discouraging the sale of the *Fever-Powder*, than I had in promoting it.

Since the publication of my Pamphlet, much pains has been taken to propagate in the papers an account of SIR THOMAS ROBINSON being cured of a Fever by DR. JAMES'S POWDER. Supposing this account to be strictly true, it disproves nothing which I have advanced in my publication. I always admitted, that it was a good medicine in some cases of Fevers; and only condemned its being exhibited in Fevers of *every* kind, without a due consideration of the essential difference in such complaints. It is, however, somewhat unfavourable to the reputation of a medicine which is so generally used, that only *one* successful case should be produced in about three months. This seems rather to corroborate the sentiments of Dr. MILLAR, that it is more frequently unsuccessful, or pernicious, than otherwise.

As my concern in the management of the late Dr. GOLDSMITH's affairs has made some noise, I think it proper, in justice to my own character, to publish the following Letter.

Mr. HAWES,

LONDON, JUNE 10, 1774.

IN a few hours I purpose leaving town, and now return you most sincere thanks for your kind behaviour to me since my arrival here. I also am thoroughly convinced of your care, assiduity, and diligence, with respect to my brother Doctor GOLDSMITH. I am also convinced, that as his affairs were put into your hands by Sir Joshua Reynolds, he could have chose no one who would have acted with more caution and disinterestedness than you have done; for which you have my sincere wishes for the welfare of you and your's. —I am, Sir, with thanks and respects to your family,

Your much obliged humble Servant,

MAURICE GOLDSMITH.

Sir JOSHUA REYNOLDS, Mr. BURKE, Mr. BOTT, and others of Dr. GOLDSMITH's best and most esteemed friends, have also testified their approbation of my conduct.

The following letter having been communicated to me, it would be, perhaps, a kind of injustice to the Public to conceal it; but I shall leave them to make their own observations on it.

To

To Mr. H A W E S:

SIR,

AS there has been some altercation in the public papers relating to *James's Fever-Powder* in respect to Dr. GOLDSMITH taking it, it becomes necessary to explain to the Public some facts in regard to the preparations of that Powder.—A PERSON now is, and has been employed for many years to make it, who is often *much in liquor at the time she is going through the process*, which takes up many hours before a strong fire. Without doubt, this may occasion the Powder not always to be made alike, and many times improperly prepared; and when so, it of course may not have the *desired effect* on those who take it. To prove this, let the specific gravity of it made at different times be tried, and it will be found to *vary* much: this has been done many times accurately, by an hydrostatical ballance, by a person who had an opportunity of knowing when Powders of different makings were delivered to the person who puts it into papers, in order to be sealed up. A measure is made use of for that purpose. This measure, though filled always exactly alike, will for the above reasons sometimes produce twenty grains, sometimes upwards, to nearly thirty grains; consequently the powder will differ in its QUALITY AND EFFICACY.—The person who has proved it as above, knows the exact process of making these Powders, and he is certain it requires A PERSON TO BE SOBER, ATTENTIVE, AND OF JUDGMENT, TO GO THROUGH THE OPERATION OF MAKING IT PROPERLY AND ALWAYS ALIKE.—The whole of the above will be attested, if necessary.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble Servant,
MEANWELL.

The Writer of the above communicated his name to me, and I can give information concerning him to any Gentleman of character who may require it.

I shall likewise take this opportunity of sub-joining the following letters which have been publicly addressed to me.

To Mr. H A W E S.

SIR,

I have read your little publication with attention and pleasure. The great caution and moderation with which you speak of that celebrated Powder, does you honour, and adds weight to your narrative. No one will doubt of the JUSTICE of your remarks, but a NOSTRUM VENDER, and a NOSTRUM SWALLOWER. It is as clear an axiom as any that can be laid down, That there is no medicine particularly active in its effects, but what may be of pernicious consequence injudiciously administered; it is no less obvious, that nine persons out of ten, who take them of their own accord, take them improperly.—The conclusion is equally obvious.

The public character of Dr. GOLDSMITH has given you a fair opportunity of exhibiting to the world one example of the horrid deeds done in the dark by powerful medicines, in the hands of the patient himself, or of his nurse; and there is every reason to fear, that were all the instances of their fatal effects equally brought forth to public view, they would infinitely exceed (without the assistance of perjury, too) the numerous affidavits of success with which our papers are crowded.

There is one thing remarkable in the declaration of Dr. GOLDSMITH's attendants in his last illness. They attribute his death to the Powders your servant administered. Nay, Mr. Newbery himself

himself rests his cause upon this article. But as you have now convinced the world that these were *Dr. James's Powders*, and given in a prudent dose, Mr. Newbery must be forced to acknowledge that *Dr. James's Powders* have done this injury to the unhappy victim, and to the Public. I hope this shocking event will make the venders of advertised medicines more moderate in their assertions, as well as teach the purchasers to be a little more circumspect in the use of them.

A Friend to the Public.

To the Printer of the MORNING CHRONICLE.

SIR,

There is hardly any thing which gives a man of candour and equity more concern, than the frequent instances which we see in the world of persons of worth and humanity being exposed to censure and calumny, for no other reason than their having laboured to render themselves useful members of Society.

We have a remarkable instance of this in the case of Mr. HAWES, who attended the late Dr. GOLDSMITH as an Apothecary during his late illness; of the circumstances of which he has lately published a fair, candid, and accurate account. But for his conduct in this affair, for which he is entitled to the thanks of the Public, he has been treated in an injurious manner in the Newspapers. The cause of this is sufficiently apparent. Mr. HAWES was thoroughly convinced, that *Dr. James's Powder* had been highly injurious in Dr. GOLDSMITH's case, and he very frankly published that opinion. He could not have acted fairly by the Public, had he done otherwise; but at the same

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time

time he candidly acknowledged, that this Medicine, in many cases of Fevers, was highly beneficial, and through the whole of his pamphlet he has treated Dr. JAMES himself with great decency and politeness. In what he has said of these Powders, when administered irregularly, and in improper cases, he will hardly be contradicted by one man of sense in the kingdom, who is any judge of medical matters, and who is not interested in the sale of these Powders. Dr. MILLAR, in his Treatise on Antimony lately published, has spoken more strongly of the pernicious effects of the Fever-Powders than Mr. HAWES has done; and has intimated, that he scarcely ever knew them to produce any good effects to patients in such cases. Mr. HAWES is more favourable to these Powders; he acknowledges they may be useful in some cases of Fevers, though highly injurious in others; and his observations on this subject will, I believe, be approved of by every impartial person who peruses his pamphlet.

Upon the whole, the part which Mr. HAWES has taken in this affair is perfectly consistent with the general humanity of his character, and which has led him with Dr. COGAN to be so assiduous in establishing in this kingdom an institution for the RECOVERY OF PERSONS APPARENTLY DEAD BY DROWNING. An institution of the same kind has been the means of saving many persons from death in HOLLAND; and has been lately set on foot by the highest authority in FRANCE. And the Society now formed by Dr. COGAN and Mr. HAWES, under the patronage of our present worthy LORD-MAYOR, bids fair to be productive of the most salutary consequences in this kingdom.

A Friend to Humanity.

I have

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I have now finished my APPENDIX, and submit the whole to the candid Public; and shall only add, that if by the various and mean arts used by the proprietors and venders of Quack Medicines, to give their nostrums sanction with the Public, men were only deprived of some of their property, it would comparatively be a matter of little consideration; but when the lives of men are often lost, or endangered, in consequence of quack advertisements, inserted with no better view than that of vending half-crown powders, &c. it then becomes the duty of every honest man to point out the danger necessarily attendant on those persons who are so ready to be deluded by the puffs of nostrum-mongers; and if I have the happiness to be of any service to my fellow-creatures by this publication, I shall pay but little regard to the censures of the interested and malevolent.

A N

ADDRESS to the PUBLIC.

AS THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS relates to a subject in which every individual is interested, the writer wishes to render the knowledge of it as general as possible, and for that reason has thought proper to publish it.

The custom of laying out the bodies of the persons supposed to be dead, as soon as respiration ceases, and the interment of them before the signs of putrefaction appear, has been frequently opposed by men of learning and humanity in this and other countries. MONS. BRUHIER, in particular, a physician of great eminence in Paris, published a piece, about thirty years ago, intitled, "The Uncertainty of the Signs of Death;" in which he clearly proved, from the testimonies of various authors, and the attestations of unexceptionable witnesses, that many persons who have been buried alive, and were providentially discovered in that state, had been rescued from the grave, and enjoyed the pleasures of society for several years after.

But notwithstanding the numerous and well authenticated facts of this kind, the custom above-mentioned remains in full force. As soon as the semblance of death appears, the chamber of the sick
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is deserted by friends, relatives, and physicians : and the *apparently dead*, though frequently *living* body, is committed to the management of an ignorant and unfeeling nurse, whose care extends no farther than laying the limbs straight; and *securing* her accustomed spoil. The bed cloaths are immediately removed, and the body is exposed to the air, which, when cold, *must extinguish the little spark of life* that may remain, and which, *by a different treatment*, might have been kindled into flame *.

I am willing, however, to hope, that since it has of late been so *frequently* demonstrated, that the *vital principle* may exist, where the characteristics of death, except putrefaction, are present, *the rational part of the community* are, at length, disposed to pay some attention to this subject.

With that hope I shall venture to particularize a few of the cases in which this *fallacious appearance* is most likely to happen, and point out *the mode of treatment*, which according to the best of my judgment, should be respectively adopted.

IN APOPLECTIC AND FAINTING FITS, and in those arising from any *violent agitation* of mind, and also when *opium* or *spirituous liquors* have been taken in too great a quantity †, there is reason

* Alluding to the motto of the medal given by the Humane Society, *Lateat Scintillula Forſan.*

† I should think myself extremely culpable if I neglected this opportunity of cautioning *parents and nurses* against the free use of GODFREY'S CORDIAL. It is a strong solution of *opium*, and, I am persuaded, that the sleep it produces, has proved the *sleep of death* to thousands of children. When this poisonous cordial has been given in a dangerous dose, and a discovery of it is made, before the power of swallowing is lost, it will be adviseable to give the child a tea-spoonful of ipecacuan wine every quarter of an hour, till the contents

reason to believe that the *appearance of death* has been frequently mistaken for the *reality*. In these cases, the means recommended by the *Humane Society*, should be persevered in for several hours, and bleeding, which, in similar circumstances, has sometimes proved pernicious, should be used with great caution.

In the two latter instances it will be highly expedient, with a view of *counteracting the soporific effects* of opium and spirits, to convey into the stomach, by a proper tube, a solution of tartar emetic, and by various other means, to excite vomiting.

FROM THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN carried off by convulsions, and the certainty, arising from undoubted facts, that some who have in appearance died from that cause, *have been recovered**, there is the greatest reason for concluding,

rents of the stomach are discharged. See also page 29 of the *Examination of the Rev. Mr. J. Wesley's Primitive Physic, interspersed with Medical remarks, and practical observations, published by the present writer.*

* A remarkable fact of this kind may be found in the *Ephemerid. Medicæ Physicæ*.—*Germ. Ann. Oct.* the substance of which is as follows:—A girl, about seven years of age, who had been for some weeks before troubled with a bad cough, was suddenly seized with a fit; a physician was immediately sent for, who, finding that the heart and lungs had ceased to perform their functions, that her lips and cheeks were pale, and her temples sunk, concluded that life was irrecoverably lost. For the satisfaction, however, of her afflicted parents, a clyster was administered, and her wrists were chafed with spirituous water; but no sign of life appearing, the soles of the feet were ordered to be rubbed with *strong brine*; and the friction was continued, without intermission, three quarters of an hour; at the end of which time she began to breathe. The friction was then increased; two or three deep inspirations followed, and in a short time the child, who was supposed to be dead by the physician, as well as the by-standers, was, to the surprise of both, and the great joy of her parents, restored to life and health.

that

that many, in consequence of this disease, have been *prematurely numbered* among the dead; and that the fond parent, by neglecting the means of recalling life, has often been the *guiltless executioner* of her own offspring.

To prevent the commission of such dreadful mistakes, no child, whose life has been apparently extinguished by convulsions, should be *consigned to the grave*, till the means of recovery above recommended in apoplexies, &c. have been tried; and, if possible, under the direction of some *skilful practitioner* of medicine, who may vary them as circumstances shall require.

WHEN FEVERS ARISE IN WEAK HABITS, or when the cure of them has been principally attempted by means of depletion, the consequent debility is often very great, and the patient sometimes sinks into a state which bears *so close an affinity* to that of death, that I am afraid, it has too often deceived the by-stander, and induced them to send for the undertaker, when *they should have had recourse* to the succours of medicine.

In such cases, Volatiles, *Eau de luce*, for example, should be applied to the nose, rubbed on the temples, and sprinkled often about the bed; hot flannels, moistened with a strong solution of camphorated spirit, may likewise be applied over the breast, and renewed every quarter of an hour; and as soon as the patient is able to swallow, a teaspoonful of the strongest cordial should be given every five minutes.

The same methods may also be used with propriety in the SMALL POX, when the *pustules* sink, and death apparently ensues; and likewise in *any other acute diseases*, when the *vital junctions* are suspended for a similar cause.

EVEN

EVEN IN OLD AGE, when life seems to have been gradually drawing to a close, the *appearances of death* are often fallacious.

“ Not many years since, *a lady in Cornwall*,
 “ more than eighty years of age, who had been a
 “ considerable time declining, took to her bed,
 “ and, in a few days, seemingly expired in the
 “ morning. As she had often desired not to be
 “ buried, till she had been two days dead, her re-
 “ quest was to have been regularly complied with
 “ by her relations. All that saw her looked upon
 “ her as dead, and the report was current through
 “ the whole place ; nay, a gentleman of the town
 “ actually wrote to his friend in the island of Scil-
 “ ly, that she was deceased. But one of those who
 “ were paying *the last kind office of humanity* to
 “ her remains, perceived some warmth about the
 “ middle of the back, and acquainting her friends
 “ with it, they applied a mirrour to her mouth ;
 “ but after repeated trials, could not observe it
 “ in the least gained ; her under jaw was likewise
 “ fallen, as the common phrase is, and, in short,
 “ she had every appearance of a dead person. All
 “ this time she had not been stripped or undressed,
 “ but the windows were opened, as is usual in the
 “ chambers of the deceased. In the evening, the
 “ heat seemed to increase, and at length she was
 “ perceived to breathe.”

See Lond. Chron. vol. IV. p. 465.

It was the intention of the writer to *publish a work* upon this subject, but as his various avocations will not permit him to carry *that design* into execution, he thought it his duty to throw out the above hints ; and if they should be the means of *preventing one person* from being laid out ; or, what

what is more horrible, *buried alive*, it will afford the writer a pleasure of the noblest kind, that, arising from the *consciousness* of doing good to his fellow-creatures.

Palgrave Place, Sept. 5.

W. HAWES.

P. S, If that regard be paid to the above address, which the subject of it seems to demand, and *any life or lives be saved* in consequence of the hints that I have thrown out, the communication of any *such instances of success*, will be esteemed a particular favour; as it will afford the most solid pleasure, and be a *satisfactory evidence* that a man, who labours to promote the interests of humanity, will be attended to by the Public.

To

To the P U B L I C,

In Reply to the Address signed

W. H A W E S.

OPINIONS founded in *error*, where they have a tendency to affect the public welfare, cannot be too early refuted. The subsequent cursory remarks are left to be enlarged on by those whose abilities and situation are more favourable for such discussion.

The general address, relative to the *protraction* recommended in burying the dead, is by far of a more alarming nature than any thing that has hitherto transpired, respecting our martial operations on the other side of the Atlantic. Dreadful might be the result, should such advice be universally adhered to. Disease has ever proved more fatal than the weapons of art; and the adoption of the sentiments alluded to, would be to produce a general pestilence.

The author insinuates, that the dead should not be interred, or rather, that they should not even be *prepared* for that intention, till signs of external *putrefaction* appear, which often may not happen till several days after the internal corruption of the viscera. The impropriety of such insinuation must be obvious to every one who considers the obnoxious influence of respired air impregnated with the contaminating effluvia of mortified bodies. Whether the extended atmosphere became generally infected, or such infection was confined to the respective dwellings where the dead were suffered to corrupt, those malignant maladies could scarcely fail to supervene, which would in time

become universally contagious. This has been often experienced in military campaigns, while the putrid exhalations of corpses not speedily buried, have generated that epidemical indisposition, which has proved more destructive than all the other devastations of war. If then the health of the living so essentially depends on the *purity of the element we breathe*, and without which we cannot exist, it is manifestly evident, that a compliance with the proposition before-mentioned, would be attended with consequences diametrically opposite to its expressed intention, if a proposal may be deemed insalutary, which, with an *uncertain* view of prolonging the life of a *single* individual, would have a *certain* tendency to endanger the lives of *thousands*. That the apprehensions of the addresser may not be altogether without foundation, is not denied; but it is by no means warrantable or judicious to attempt to remove a *lesser* evil, at the expence of a *greater*. That gentleman will therefore excuse the writer, for adding, in opposition to his own anticipated satisfaction from the reverse, that he will think himself happy, should the preceding animadversions be found to have contributed to render his proposed innovation abortive, notwithstanding the writer's equal disinclination to be buried *durante vita*.

With respect to the customary offices that succeed the apparent discontinuance of respiration, it would certainly be right not to expose the body to the external air for a few hours after, or till the several parts are cold enough to produce that rigidity, which, though not always, is *generally* a certain indication of the vital extinction, or, at least, not to be *over hasty* in the ceremonies of such a department. It would also be prudent for the friends and relations of the deceased, to refrain
from

from the unavailable custom with many of taking their farewell of the dead by a labial salutation before the coffin is closed, nor should any one be longer or oftener in the apartment where the corpse is laid, after there has been time for the fluids and abdominal viscera to corrupt, than there is occasion for.

The strictures on *Godfrey's Cordial*, with which Dr. Hawes concludes his Address, are obviously pertinent, and merit the most serious attention, not only of the public in general, but of the legislature in particular, with respect to the interdiction of the sale of a medicine, which must often not only prove mortally deleterious, but *enfeeble* the constitution of those children who survive its pernicious influence, from whence proceed the diseases of maturer age, and the generation of weakly progenies. This is certainly a public grievance that cannot be too early redressed, and in which the greatest vigilance may not prove sufficient to prevent the first families in the kingdom from being domestically interested.

Berwick upon Tweed,
Sept. 12, 1777.

W. RENWICK.

TO MR. R E N W I C K,
OF BERWICK upon TWEED.

S I R,

AS you have, in a very liberal and gentleman-like manner, proposed an objection to *one* of the cautions contained in my address, concerning the dangerous custom of laying out persons as soon as *apparently* dead, or, in other words, as soon as respiration ceases; I think it a duty I owe both to you and the Public, to state my reasons for thinking that objection of no force.

I am

I am happy to find that you perfectly agree with me in my leading principle, the impropriety of laying out persons immediately upon the appearance of death. " With respect to the customary offices that succeed the apparent discontinuance of respiration, it would certainly be right, you observe, not to expose the body to the external air for a few hours after, or till the several parts are cold enough to produce that rigidity, which, tho' not always, is generally a certain indication of the vital extinction, or at least not to be *over* *hasty* in the ceremonies of such a department."

These, Sir, are your own words, and I have read them with pleasure, because they confirm the propriety of my principal caution, and will, I hope, efficaciously co-operate with it in abolishing the *inhuman* custom above-mentioned.

Your objection to my other caution, respecting the *interment* of bodies, seems, in a great measure, to be founded on the mis-conception of my meaning. " The author of the Address, you say, insinuates, that the dead should not be interred, or rather, that they should not be *prepared* for that intention, till signs of external putrefaction appear." Permit me, Sir, to cite the passages which more immediately relate to interment, and you will perceive, upon reading them again, that I have not thrown out the insinuation which you have *hastily* imputed to me. The passages are these. " The custom of *laying* out the bodies of persons supposed to be dead as soon as respiration ceases, and the interment of them before the signs of putrefaction appear, has been frequently opposed by men of learning and humanity in this and other countries. Monsr. Bruhier, in particular, a physician of great eminence in Paris, published a piece about thirty years ago, entitled,

“ entitled, *The Uncertainty of the Signs of Death*;
 “ in which he clearly proved, from the testimonies
 “ of various authors, and the attestations of unex-
 “ ceptionable witnesses, that many persons who
 “ had been buried alive, and were providentially
 “ discovered in that state, had been rescued from
 “ the grave, and enjoyed the pleasures of society
 “ for several years after.”

“ But notwithstanding the numerous and well-
 “ authenticated facts of this kind, the custom
 “ above-mentioned remains in full force. As soon
 “ as the *semblance* of death appears, the chamber
 “ of the sick is deserted by friends, relatives, and
 “ physicians, and the *apparently dead*, though fre-
 “ quently a living body, is committed to the ma-
 “ nagement of an ignorant and unfeeling nurse,
 “ whose care extends no farther than laying the
 “ limbs straight, and securing her accustomed-spoil.
 “ The bed-cloaths are immediately removed, and
 “ the body is exposed to the air, which, when cold,
 “ must *extinguish* the little spark of life that may
 “ remain, and which by a different method might
 “ have been kindled into flame.”

But admitting I had insinuated, that the dead
 should not be *prepared* for interment till signs of
 external putrefaction appear, I think that even
 then your *dreadful apprehensions* would have been
 entirely groundless. The signs of putrefaction, in
 the first stage of that process, and which are de-
 cisive indications of death, *are not accompanied with*
fætor, and consequently *no mischief* from your own
 principle, can possibly arise in waiting for their ap-
 pearance. In the second stage, indeed, a foetid
 and injurious vapour arises; but unless the mass
 of putrefying matter be very considerable, as has
 sometimes been the case after battles, &c. when
 the slain have been left unburied, that vapour is in
 a very

a very short time combined with the air, and entirely disarmed of its danger *. If this were not the case, the air of London, from the quantity of animal and vegetable matter continually putrefying in the streets, &c. would very soon become intolerably offensive, and altogether unfit for the purposes of respiration.

But "the signs of *external* putrefaction, you say, may not happen till several days after the *internal* corruption of the viscera." Be it so, Sir, it furnishes no objection to the rule I have recommended; for if the abdominal viscera corrupt, and no putrid vapour escapes, the air cannot be "impregnated with contaminating effluvia." If putrid vapour should escape in any considerable quantity, it is a *sign* that putrefaction has taken place, and that the body may safely be interred. In general, however, a putrid discolouration of some parts of the body, particularly of the abdomen, precedes the exhalation of any noxious vapour, as is well known to those who are conversant in dissections. But the time which may elapse before this discoloration appears, is very uncertain, as it depends on the nature of the disease which terminated life, the heat of the weather, and various other causes.

To conclude, I wish it were deeply impressed upon the mind of every individual, that the only *unequivocal* signs of death, are the marks of putrefaction †, and that those who are committed to the

* For the law which obtains in the chemical combination of air and variolous vapour, and which is the same, I presume, as that which obtains in the combination of air and putrid vapour, see Dr. Watkinson's "Examination of a Charge brought against Inoculation, &c."

† Many recent proofs of the truth of this assertion might be produced; but it will be sufficient to refer the reader to the "Reports of the Humane Society" for the years 1774, 1775, and 1776; to a letter in the General Advertiser of the

earth before these marks are discovered; may possibly be buried alive. But I wish it were still *deeper impressed*, that the danger of being buried alive, though the fact has frequently happened, is not so great as that of being *laid out* as dead, whilst living, and having the vital spark *extinguished* by a precipitate exposure to cold air. I cannot, therefore, omit this opportunity of again exhorting those whom it may concern, not to consider the persons who *apparently die* of *apoplectic and other fits*, especially *young children* who are carried off by *convulsions*, as irrecoverably lost, till the proper means of restoration have been tried.

Having, in justice to the public, to you, and myself, given this explanation of my caution, relating to the interment of the dead, and vindicated the propriety of it against the objection to which, in your opinion, it was liable; I shall beg leave, *on my part*, to put an end to the dispute.—Controversy is not agreeable to me; and if it were, the duties of my profession, and other increasing cares, would not permit me to prosecute it.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

Your very humble Servant,

Palsgrave Place,
Oct. 1, 1778.

W. HAWES.

11th of September, relative to the death of the late Mr Holland, signed Theatricus; and also to one in the Public Ledger, of the 10th of the same month, respecting the *premature* interment of the late Dr. Pull, of Leicester.

A P P E N D I X.

DR. HAWES acquaints the Public, that in the course of *a few months*, NINE PERSONS, who had been *seemingly dead* for some hours, *have been restored to life*, by the bodies being kept in a warm bed, as recommended in the preceding Address; and it gives him pleasure to hope, in consequence of the above pleasing information, that the absurd and inhuman custom of laying out persons *immediately* on the appearance of death, will at some future period, (and that not very distant), be universally abolished.

As it has been unquestionably proved, that in a variety of diseases, *a suspension of the vital powers may take place*, without an absolute extinction of life. THE PUBLIC, as is evident, cannot be *too earnestly recommended* to pay the utmost attention to this solid and important fact. Which, to render his communication of it more useful, Dr. Hawes advises, that the bodies of those who are apparently carried off by diseases or sudden death, may be kept in a warm bed for *twelve* hours at least—that, during that time, nurses, &c. do pay the greatest attention to the seeming corpses—and he is of opinion, that friends, relations, &c. will be acting wisely, to give such persons an *equivalent* gratuity,

gratuity, instead of *death bed perquisites**, for their extraordinary care, &c.

THE AUTHOR likewise promises to pay the reward of ONE GUINEA to nurses or other attendants, *on any child or grown person returning to life* by their humane attention, provided the fact is ascertained by *a gentleman of the faculty*, or attested by *three* creditable persons †; and in hopes of exciting an universal attention to a subject of so much importance to mankind.

Dr. HAWES has within a few months distributed at a very considerable expence, *seven thousand* of his Addresses, and continues to give them *gratis* to all those who may apply for them ‡. It is reasonable to suppose, that it was not an idle curiosity, that excited such numerous applications for this little well-meant performance; but an *equal desire* with the writer *to save the human race* from premature death, and premature interment.

As an undeniable proof, that the *learned* and *humane* approve of the author's intentions, the

* In genteel families, &c. it is a melancholy truth, that nurses lay out the body as expeditiously as possible; the many valuable things about the bed, being much more important to such kind of people, than the chance of returning life.

† People of fortune should call in the opinion of a Medical man, who has paid attention to this subject, that, by experiments it may be ascertained, whether there are any remains of life. This would entirely remove the *horrid apprehensions* entertained by many, of being buried alive.

‡ If any live or lives be saved, through an attention to this Address, the communication of such happy events will be esteemed a particular favour, as every new instance of success will stamp *conviction* on the minds of the public, and thus one or two persons *returning to life*, may be the means, in a series of time, of lengthening the days of individuals---of restoring many a father to the comfort and protection of his family; and many a child to the fond embraces of his afflicted parents.

preceding Address has been copied in the *London, Gentleman's, Westminster, and Medical Magazines*; also in the *Annual Register* for 1777; and in the same publication, is given an instance of success with the subsequent introduction. “*The following case, AMONGST A VARIETY OF OTHERS, which have fallen under the immediate inspection of Dr. HARMANT, a celebrated Physician at NANCY, furnishes us with a strong proof of the necessity of the caution recommended with so much humanity and judgment by Dr. HAWES, V. p. 109.*”

* * * * *

THE preceding Address was published about two years since, and has been well spoken of by the Monthly, Critical, and London Reviewers, as well as highly approved by the Public.---The approbation it met with was a sufficient motive to induce the Author to investigate so important a subject more deeply. By so doing, he was convinced that it ought to be ranked among the various branches of Medical Education. In order to forward that measure, he last winter attempted the arduous undertaking, in a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of restoring Animation. These were received in a manner the most flattering to his wishes; and which demands his embracing this opportunity, to return his most grateful thanks to the many ingenious Gentlemen who honoured him with their diligent attendance. Thus encouraged, he has resolved to devote as much of his remaining time as the avocations of his profession as a Physician will permit, to further researches after information on this important subject: Being thoroughly convinced, that by engaging the attention of young Medical Men, the Faculty in general, and the Public at large, to the Uncertainty of the Signs of Death, he shall be the happy instrument of rescuing many of the Human Race from a premature residence in the gloomy mansions of the Grave.

F I N I S.